

CLAIMS:

1. An international shopping system in communication with an electronic commerce system operating in a first currency and offering a product for purchase,
 5 the international shopping system providing a cost in a second currency for the product to be imported into a destination country, the international shopping system comprising:

an input/output interface for receiving a request for the cost of the product in the second currency and providing the cost of the product in the second currency in
 10 response to the request;

a commerce system interface to the electronic commerce system for obtaining information about the product in response to the request;

a product cost calculation system comprising:

a quote processor for establishing the cost in the second currency for
 15 the product to be imported; and

an importing cost determination module in communication with the quote processor for determining an import cost for the product to be imported into the destination country based on information about the product obtained from the electronic commerce system, the importing cost determination
 20 module providing the quote processor with the import cost.

2. The international shopping system according to claim 1 wherein the commerce system interface includes:

a product data module for obtaining product data from the electronic
 25 commerce system;

a product data address module for obtaining a location address for the product data on the electronic commerce system.

3. The international shopping system according to claim 2 wherein the product
 30 information on the electronic commerce system is in the form of a web page and

wherein the product data module includes a markup code module for obtaining a markup code file containing the product data from the electronic commerce system; and

wherein the product data address module includes a Universal Resource
 35 Location (URL) module for obtaining a URL identifying the location of the product data on the electronic commerce system

4. The international shopping system according to claim 1 further including a commerce system database containing information for communicating with and purchasing products from the electronic commerce system.

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5. The international shopping system according to claim 1 further including: a product database containing information about a plurality of products, the product offered for purchase by the electronic commerce system being one of the plurality of products;

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wherein the product information obtained by the commerce system interface is stored in the product database.

6. The international shopping system according to claim 1 further including: a flow controller for facilitating communications between the commerce system interface, the output interface and the purchase cost calculation system.

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7. The international shopping system according to claim 1 further including: an information sufficiency verifying module for analyzing the information from the electronic commerce system about the product to determine if there is sufficient information to process the request and extracting product data relevant to the request for the product cost calculation system.

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9. The international shopping system according to claim 1 wherein the importing cost determination module comprises:

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a duty estimation module for estimating a duty charge for the product based on product data and the destination country;

a tax calculator for determining a tax cost for the product from the destination country; and

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a shipping calculator for determining a shipping cost for the product to the destination country.

10. The international shopping system according to claim 9 wherein the duty estimation module comprises:

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a product categorizer for determining a product category for the product being imported based on product information from the electronic commerce system;

a duty estimator for estimating the duty rate for the product based on the product category;

a duty charge processor for calculating an estimated duty charge based on the estimated duty rate and a value of the product.

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11. The international shopping system according to claim 1 wherein the quote processor comprises:

an exchange calculator for determining a value for the product in the second currency based on the product data from the electronic commerce system;

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a quote manager for coordinating establishing the cost in the second currency for the product to be imported, the quote manager receiving information from the duty estimation module, the tax calculator, the shipping calculator and the exchange calculator.

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12. The international shopping system according to claim 1 wherein the product cost calculation system further includes:

a purchasing module for purchasing the product from the electronic commerce system.

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13. A method for providing a cost in a second currency of a product being imported into a destination country, the product being offered for sale by an electronic commerce system operating in a first currency, the method comprising:

receiving a request for the cost of the product in the second currency;

obtaining information about the product from the electronic commerce

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system;

determining an import cost for the product to be imported into the destination country based on information about the product obtained from the electronic commerce system;

establishing a total cost for the product in the second currency; and

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providing the cost of the product in the second currency.

14. The method according to claim 13 wherein the step of obtaining information about the product includes:

obtaining product data from the electronic commerce system; and

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obtaining a location address for the product data on the electronic commerce system.

15. The method according to claim 14 wherein the step of obtaining product data includes obtaining a markup code file containing product data from the electronic commerce system; and

5 wherein the step of obtaining a location address for the product data includes obtaining a Universal Resource Locator (URL) identifying the location of the product data on the electronic commerce system.

16. The method according to claim 13 further including:

10 storing information about the product obtained from the electronic commerce system in a database.

17. The method according to claim 13 further including:

15 determining if the information about the product is sufficient to process the request; and

extracting the information about the product relevant to the request if the information about the product is sufficient.

18. The method according to claim 13 wherein the step of determining an import cost includes:

20 estimating a duty charge for the product based on the information about the product and the destination country;

determining a tax cost for the product from the destination country; and

determining a shipping cost for the product to the destination country.

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19. The method according to claim 18 wherein the step of estimating a duty charge includes:

determining a product category for the product being imported based on the information about the product;

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estimating the duty rate for the product based on the product category;

calculating an estimated duty charge based on the estimated duty rate and a value of the product.

20. The method according to claim 13 wherein the step of establishing a total cost includes:

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determining a value for the product in the second currency based on the product data from the electronic commerce system;

coordinating establishing the cost in the second currency for the product to be imported based on the duty charge, the tax cost and the shipping cost.

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21. The method according to claim 13 further including:
purchasing the product from the electronic commerce system.

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22. A computer readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for providing a cost in a second currency of a product being imported into a destination country, the product being offered for sale by an electronic commerce system operating in a first currency, the computer-executable instructions performing the steps comprising:

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receiving a request for the cost of the product in the second currency;
obtaining information about the product from the electronic commerce system;

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determining an import cost for the product to be imported into the destination country based on information about the product obtained from the electronic commerce system;
establishing a total cost for the product in the second currency; and
providing the cost of the product in the second currency.

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23. The computer-readable medium according to claim 22 wherein the step of obtaining information about the product includes:
obtaining product data from the electronic commerce system; and
obtaining a location address for the product data on the electronic commerce system.

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24. The computer-readable medium according to claim 23 wherein the step of obtaining product data includes obtaining a markup code file containing product data from the electronic commerce system; and
wherein the step of obtaining a location address for the product data includes obtaining a Universal Resource Locator (URL) identifying the location of the product data on the electronic commerce system.

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25. The computer-readable medium according to claim 22 further including:

storing information about the product obtained from the electronic commerce system in a database.

26. The computer-readable medium according to claim 22 further including:
5 determining if the information about the product is sufficient to process the request; and
extracting the information about the product relevant to the request if the information about the product is sufficient.

10 27. The computer-readable medium according to claim 22 wherein the step of determining an import cost includes:
estimating a duty charge for the product based on the information about the product and the destination country;
15 determining a tax cost for the product from the destination country; and
determining a shipping cost for the product to the destination country.

28. The method according to claim 27 wherein the step of estimating a duty charge includes:
determining a product category for the product being imported based on the
20 information about the product;
estimating the duty rate for the product based on the product category;
calculating an estimated duty charge based on the estimated duty rate and a value of the product.

25 29. The method according to claim 22 wherein the step of establishing a total cost includes:
determining a value for the product in the second currency based on the product data from the electronic commerce system;
coordinating establishing the cost in the second currency for the product to be
30 imported based on the duty charge, the tax cost and the shipping cost.

30. The method according to claim 22 further including:
purchasing the product from the electronic commerce system.